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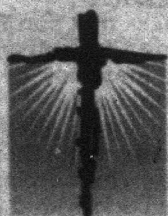
SINCE 1877

CH 5, 2009

VOL. 133

No. 9

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MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

LIVE WITH URGENCY
DON'T LET YOUR FAITH FORGIVE YOU

WINE OF PRAYER FOR
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS
AND THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

National Goal
\$65 Million

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Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Miss. disaster relief teams return home

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — The ice is gone but the agony lingers, particularly in Kentucky and Arkansas which were hardest hit by the Jan. 26-27 ice storms. The overall death count stands at 33.

Mississippi Baptist disaster relief teams were activated in response to the storms and have all returned home after serving in the Mayfield, Ky., area south of Paducah, according to Jim Didlake, men's ministry director and disaster relief coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

A total of 83 volunteers, representing 19 different groups, served from Feb. 4 - Feb. 27, Didlake said. Individuals representing Mississippi Baptists included two volunteers operating a shower unit; seven from Calhoun County; eight from Lee County; five from Hattiesburg; 20 from Alcorn County; two from Raymond; six from Jones County; and six from Yalobusha County.

Out of state groups also volunteered to work with Mississippi Baptists — five volunteers from Baton Rouge; two from Tennessee; five from Illinois; and 15 from Kentucky.

The groups performed 243 chainsaw jobs, served 1,468 meals, provided 426 showers, and washed 82 loads of laundry, Didlake said.

David Warner, a volunteer from D'Lo Church, D'Lo, said, "This was the most appreciative group we've ever dealt with."

"This was really our churches and associations responding," said Didlake. "We do appreciate their efforts."

In Lincoln County, Ky., Trudy Dubuque "heard things start snapping and popping and falling on my house" as several inches of ice and snow tore limbs

from the dozens of trees in her yard.

"I couldn't see from inside," the elderly woman recounted in a video on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's website, "because the branches had come down over the windows to the point where I couldn't see anything."

Within a few days, however, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams were able to venture into Lincoln County, armed with chainsaws and food, ready to help Dubuque and others left stranded in the dark and extreme cold.

"That's the amazing part... that there are people who care," Dubuque said. "Without them, I really don't know what I would have done."

The chainsaw crews and feeding



KENTUCKY CLEANUP — A disaster relief team from Temple Church, Hattiesburg, removes debris during cleanup activities in Kentucky following severe winter weather storms in late January. Team members included (from left) Jeff Ford, Johnny Hall, and Larry Ponder. Mississippi Baptist disaster relief teams were in the field from Feb. 4 - Feb. 27. (Photo courtesy of Jim Didlake/Men's Ministry Department)

teams in Lincoln County are among at least 100 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief units that have helped Kentuckians get back on their feet after one of the state's most devastating natural disasters.

More than 700,000 homes lost power, leaving residents exposed to single-digit temperatures for days at a time. Power still has not been restored to thousands of residents statewide. In western Kentucky, the most conservative estimates are that many homes may not have power until March or later.

During early February, disaster relief units from Kentucky and 15 other state conventions — with as many as 1,000 volunteers — traveled to hard-hit areas in nearly 20 Baptist association areas. That's not counting the number of volunteers who may have served but haven't contacted the Kentucky convention or the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board to let them know they're out there.

While power crews from dozens of states worked to repair thousands of damaged poles and towers, Baptist teams have been helping the residents, particularly in western Kentucky, clean up their homes and find a warm meal and a place to sleep.

Keith Stinson, a chainsaw crew coordinator from Kentucky's Bates Creek Association, reported from Lincoln County, "We're making progress [but] we've got a lot of work to do."

"This is the first time in my memory... that I've ever seen anything that affected everybody," said Chip Hutcheson, publisher of the Princeton Times-Leader newspaper in Caldwell County and a

member of Southside Church in Princeton. "We're in uncharted territory."

Rick Reeder, director of missions for Caldwell-Lyon Association, said the Baptist response there has been swift and ongoing.

"It's pretty serious down here," Reeder noted. "There's so many issues you don't think about. It's kind of like an emergency room: You stabilize the patient, you diagnose, and then you treat them. I think we're kind of in the treatment phase now."

The most important facet of the ordeal, Reeder said, is seeing how the love shown by Baptist volunteers can touch their neighbors.

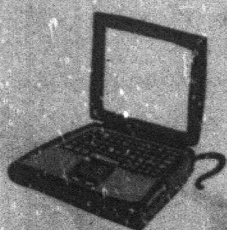
Reeder told of a young woman he met at a Princeton Red Cross shelter. She and her husband had moved to town recently but had lost their jobs and were forced to send their five-year-old son to live with family out of state.

Reeder quoted the woman as saying, "I am overwhelmed at how much people want to help me... I have never had people want to help us without wanting something in return."

"She was only used to people just out for themselves," Reeder reflected. "So, when she started experiencing all this love, she couldn't take it. It was just an amazing story to hear her tell that."

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force is supported by gifts to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering and the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

Associate Editor Tony Martin contributed to this article.



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Who's protecting the children?

It's always sad to hear of the news of another child abused at the hands of trusted adults. It's infinitely sadder when the abuse occurs in church — yea, even Southern Baptist churches. With a spate of reports that have cropped up in recent years about child sexual abuse in some of the churches of our convention, we are once again reminded not only of our legal responsibilities in this area but more importantly, what Jesus had to say about His precious little ones:

Then little children were brought to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14 NIV)

And if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around his neck. (Mark 9:42 NIV)

We need to heed those strong words delivered loud and clear by our Lord and Savior. Unfortunately, that's not always the case even in our own ranks.

A couple of years ago, news broke that a former Southern Baptist youth minister already serving 10 years for molesting a boy in Kentucky was charged with 25 additional sex-related offenses he

allegedly committed while serving on the staff of a Southern Baptist church in Missouri. The crimes with which Shawn Davies, age 33, has been charged are simply too perverse to list in a family newspaper such as The Baptist Record.

Shortly before Thanksgiving 2007, Larry Reynolds, pastor of Southmont Church in Denton, Texas, admitted to "a terrible mistake" and resigned. "I confess that proper boundaries were not kept," he said in a statement to church members.

According to news media reports, a civil lawsuit has been settled that accused Reynolds, age 59, of having a five-year sexual relationship with a girl he was counseling that began when the girl was 15 years old. The Texas statute of limitations has expired on criminal charges.

The sordid story of another Denton-area pastor has also come to light. Dale "Dickie" Amyx, pastor of Bolivar Church in nearby Sanger, admitted that he paid child support for nine years and is currently embroiled in a civil lawsuit with the child's mother in which she alleges that Amyx began molesting her during counseling sessions when she was 14 years old.

"I hated it, that it happened," Amyx confessed in a sworn deposition that is public record. "I told her many times I never meant to hurt her, and if I did, I'm sorry, and she always said it was OK."

The lawsuit also alleges that Amyx threatened the teen with guns and knives to keep her silent, and stalked her even as she moved several times to avoid him.

Closer to home, Steve Gaines, senior pastor of Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tennessee, was roundly criticized as details

emerged about his knowledge of alleged child sexual abuse involving one of the church's ministers that began 17 years ago.

Gaines delayed taking any decisive action for six months until the minister's story was revealed, and he apparently failed to notify authorities in a timely manner as required under state law.

Paul Williams, a 34-year Bellevue staffer, was finally dismissed after a special investigative committee issued a scathing report about the handling of the matter.

"Starting with Paul, there appears to have been no serious consideration given by anyone to the health and safety of the Bellevue family," the committee report states. "On Paul's part, there appears to never have been any time in seventeen years that any consideration was given to the effect that having a child molester on the ministerial staff of Bellevue Baptist Church would have on the church."

These are not lurid stories from some faraway denomination or cult with which we have scant contact and little doctrine in common. These are our churches, and our children.

What are the chances that similar outrages are occurring in Mississippi Baptist churches? It may not be widespread, but just do the math.

Even one incident in a Mississippi Baptist is one too many. Church leaders should talk with their church's attorney about legal steps, like background checks, that can help prevent these travesties.

Let's get serious about protecting the children entrusted to our churches. After all, we have it on pretty good authority that it's the right thing to do.

Bible marathon set

*Robby Rikard, pastor
Casilla Church, Casilla*

*Fletcher Moorman, pastor
Enon Church, Grenada*

God's Holy Word guides our way by teaching us the truth, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we can walk in the light of truth and have fellowship with God as "the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, purifies us from all sin" (v7).

We believe that by calling individuals to partner with us, we are providing an opportunity for them to let the world know that the Lord is their God, and that His Word has made a difference in their lives. If everyone who



Moorman and Rikard

has been impacted by the Word of God would just tell the world how much it means to them, then maybe it would inspire those walking in the darkness to seek the Light.

If just a few faithful disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ would volunteer to take time out of their busy day and stand in the public square reverently reading His Word, then perhaps the lost sheep of our Jerusalem would see what a difference God can make in the lives of ordinary people through His word.

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of this effort. We will begin on April 10 at 4 p.m. with a short time of prayer and praise. At 5 p.m. we will begin the reading that will conclude about 24 hours later. We are asking churches, civic organizations, and individuals to sign up for time slots (15 minutes per individual) and be a part of our effort. To find out what times are still open or to make a reservation, contact us at (662) 417-6422.

We also request your prayers. We hope to see this event grow and multiply with each passing year. Please feel free to contact us for more information about how to conduct a similar event in your area.

Editor's note: Rikard can also be contacted via e-mail at bro.robby@gmail.com.

Winning Memphis to Jesus is Jacobs' dream

MEMPHIS, Tn. (Special) — Six people were found shot and stabbed to death in a mass murder in Memphis' dangerous Binghamton neighborhood. Three children who survived the attack were hospitalized in critical condition. Before the dead bodies were cold, yet another shooting and robbery took place in the same gang- and drug-plagued Binghamton area, located just six miles from downtown Memphis.

Southern Baptist missionaries Willie Jr. and Ozzie Jacobs, believing it will take no less than Jesus Christ to once and for all change the crime-culture of Memphis and stop such senseless neighborhood violence and bloodshed, have taken on the challenge.

Although now in their early 60s and married for 41 years, the couple is not ready for matching rocking chairs and simply waiting on monthly Social Security checks. They are on a mission from God in one of the perennial "Top Ten" most dangerous cities in the United States.

"Memphis is in the middle of spiritual warfare," says Jacobs, when asked about the spiritual climate of Tennessee's youngest but second largest metro area. "We're dealing with murder, crime, and drugs throughout

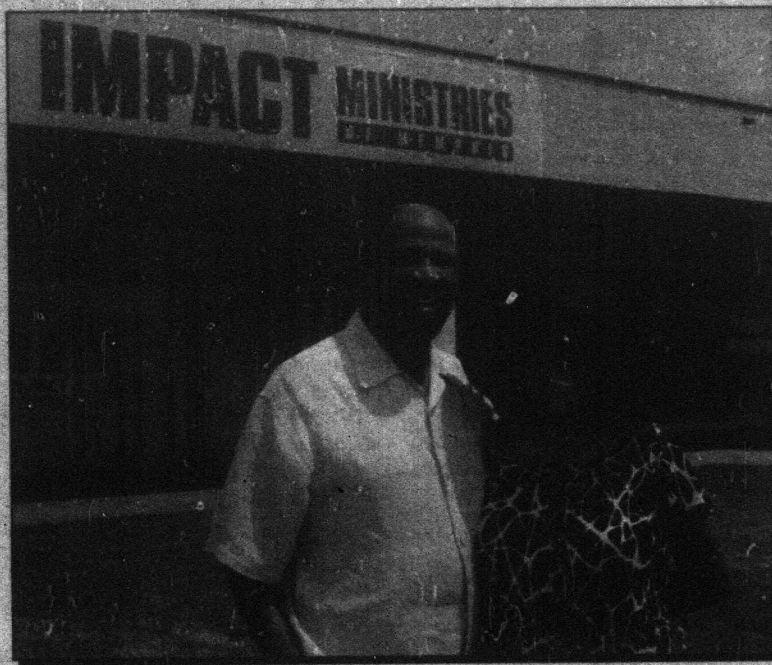
the city. There's a racial divide that has plagued Memphis since the days of Dr. Martin Luther King. It's never healed. There's also an economic and a political divide. In the middle of all this, we try to do ministry."

As if ministry in Memphis was not challenging enough, Jacobs serves the North American Mission Board in partnership with the Tennessee Baptist Convention and the Mid-South Association as regional coordinator of church planting for the four-state Memphis Delta Region, including parts of Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Missouri.

The Jacobs are two of 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions. They are among the NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 1-8.

This year's theme is Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest. The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$65 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like the Jacobses.

Willie and Ozzie didn't have to transfer to Memphis last July. They were quite happy and content in Columbus, Ohio, where



WORKING FOR CHANGE — Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions 2009 Week of Prayer missionaries Willie and Ozzie Jacobs work with Memphis' Impact Church and Ministries as part of their church planting ministry in the Memphis area. The Jacobs are also intent on planting churches in the Mississippi Delta area. (Special photo)

Willie was serving as a church planting strategist for the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. Before that, he spent 30 years as a full-time pastor — 20 years at a single church in the Dallas area.

Both Alabama natives, they now live in nearby Collierville and have three grown daughters and two grandchildren.

"For 40 years, we dreamed of the day when we'd become missionaries going to Africa," he said, "but God allowed the mission field to come to us, after years of experience as a pastor in Texas."

"We came to Memphis because we sensed the lostness and spiritual climate of Memphis. We felt the Lord wanted us to come here and make an impact in new and innovative ways. This is a God-sized job here in Memphis when you look at the enormous responsibility we've been given as national missionaries."

He says sometimes it's almost overwhelming.

Jacobs has launched a multi-pronged strategy for the Memphis area. He does his best

to work along side other predominantly African-American denominations — strong in Memphis — such as the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and the National Baptist Convention, although "their concept of missions is quite different from ours as Southern Baptists," Jacobs admits.

"One of the biggest challenges we face among Southern Baptist churches is to help people change their mindsets about how ministry is done. The churches need to learn new approaches in order to reach people with the Gospel, and do it in such a way that's non-threatening. You have to build relationships," says Jacobs.

"There's a real need for churches to realize that ministry takes place on the outside and that a lot of the needs of people are going unmet because church members and fellowships are not going out."

"When people's lives are changed through Jesus Christ, it changes the culture of people who live within the city. I think Memphis can be changed."

Looking back

10 years ago

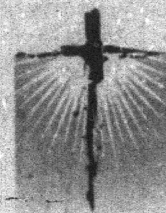
Missionaries Bruce and Martha Schmidt and two of their children narrowly escape when unidentified gunmen fire on their pickup truck near Kaabong, Uganda.

20 years ago

A three-part public television series called God and Politics, produced by Southern Baptist Bill Moyers, is criticized in a resolution presented by Houston Judge Paul Pressler and adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

50 years ago

Latest registration figures at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton show a total of 1564 enrolled for the second semester — a 5% increase over the second semester last year.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

MARCH 5, 2009

VOL. 133

No. 9



YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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EKL NRS HMAL HET
YML.

WMRK MKS: MKS

Clue: E = A

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Genesis One: One

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REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

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- Kreole Ave. Church, Moss Point:** Revival, Mar. 8-11; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Scott McDowell, speaker.
- Liberty Church, Noxapater:** Revival, Mar. 15-18; Sun., 11 a.m. followed by covered dish lunch and 5:45 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Brian Johnson, speaker; Dennis Duran, music.
- Leflore Church, Holcomb:** Revival, Mar. 22-25; Jerry McNeer, speaker; Larry Livingston, music; for information, call (662) 229-8990.

THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE

It is not unusual to hear people and especially to hear them talk on TV about people who are referred to as the *beautiful people*. Usually the reference is to stars and starlets who are walking along the red carpet and give every appearance of being not only successful but are also dressed up and polished up to the nth degree. That is certainly one way to look at people, to evaluate them, and to elevate them to a position of beauty. It is not the only way and, in fact, it falls far short of being the best way.

In fact, the Apostle Peter tells us that, "Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes. Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight" (1 Pet. 3:3-4). It is not that the Bible is opposed to outward beauty. In fact, as you walk through scriptures the Bible will point out folks that undoubtedly were standouts in the crowd. You may remember Rachel and her stunning looks, or maybe Jacob and his rough and rugged looks. That being said there is a lot more to be said for the beauty and the quality of life that comes from inner attractiveness and the glow and the glamour of a sweet spirit.

Outward beauty does have its place and its significance. I think of the old, well-worn story of the young fellow who was bringing his new college girlfriend home



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

for a visit with his parents. The parents met the girl and they were almost shocked because she was anything but attractive. Some might have thought that she was downright ugly. After some time at the house over the weekend the dad was talking to his son, and realizing that there was some awkwardness taking place the boy said, "What is it Dad?" He said, "Well son, she is just not real pretty." To which the son responded, "Dad, beauty is only skin deep." To which the Dad replied, "Well, skin her son, skin her!"

While that old story has an element of humor about it, the reality is that it seems as though kids have brought guys and gals home that may have had some outward appeal but no inward beauty or delight. Whether in marriage or in life and friendship it is difficult to live with a beautiful person who is ugly inside. So from a biblical standpoint if you want to be one of the *beautiful people*, what should you do?

First, take some time to work on the inner beauty. I grew up realizing that the girls were a lot prettier than the boys were or at least it seemed that way to me. Since I grew up in a home with four brothers, a dad, and a mom,

who I never paid any attention to how much time it took her to get ready to go somewhere, I just never knew all that was involved in the beautifying process—but once I was married and my two daughters came along I began to realize that it seemed as though these beautiful ladies spend more time getting that way than men spend time in looking the way we do.

That being said I am not belittling or begrudging the time they spend in the process, for I am appreciative that they do, but what if we spent more time cultivating the inner traits of our lives than we do on the outer appearance—the traits that really do make a difference, like a sweet and gentle spirit, a kind and helpful attitude, and a loving and forgiving heart. Those things literally bless and make a world of difference in people with whom we may come in contact.

Secondly, it would be invaluable for us to realize the things that are a part of our lives which are of the greatest value. Skin will wrinkle in time. Coloring in an eye can diminish. The hair may fallout or turn gray. The steps you take may be made with a slight limp or

stumble, but inner beauty stays delightful and becomes even more radiant as the years go by. It is amazing. The most *beautiful people* I have ever met and been privileged to know were beautiful because of something that radiated from within. If you live to be grown, then mature somewhat, and keep your eyes open to the world around you, you will see as the Scripture indicates that the outward man decays. The outward man will crumble, but that inner person can continue to grow and glow.

Through the years, I have known some people who had outer beauty and inner ugly. On the other hand, I have known of some who had less than a beautiful and breathtaking exterior, but they were absolutely people of indescribable beauty because of their God-touched inner dispositions. I have also been blessed to know some people who had both inner and outward beauty. Sadly, I have known folks who had both outward and inner ugliness.

Often we cannot do anything about our facial features or our outward appearance, but we can always by the grace of God and the love of Jesus do something about the way the inner person looks and sounds. The fellow that said beauty was only skin deep, but ugly goes to the bone may well have been talking about the beauty or the lack thereof in the inner person. May the sweet spirit of Jesus warm our hearts and shape our lives until that day He welcomes us home.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

- NORTH COLUMBIA BAPTIST Church, Columbia, Miss.,** is seeking a full-time minister of music/education. Please email resumes to ncbc1@hotmail.com or mail them to P.O. Box 271, Columbia, MS 39429.
- PINCKNEY BAPTIST Church, Union, MS,** is in search of a bi-vocational pastor. A newly remodeled 3-bedroom house provided. Our loving community church is also seeking a minister of music. All resumes may be sent to Pinckney Baptist Church, Search Committee, 590 Stamper Pond Rd., Union, MS 39365.
- EAST LOUISVILLE BAPTIST Church, Winston County,** is accepting resumes for a full-time pastor. Mail resumes to East Louisville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 706, Louisville, MS 39339.
- MANTEE BAPTIST Church of Webster County** is currently seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resume to search committee, c/o Mantee Baptist Church, P.O. Box 161, Mantee, MS 39751.
- HOLCOMB BAPTIST Church, Holcomb, Miss.,** is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to youth search committee, c/o HBC, 12135 Hwy. 8 West, Grenada, MS 38901.
- SOUTH LOUISVILLE BAPTIST Church of Winston County Miss.,** is accepting resumes for the position of full-time pastor. Resumes will be accepted until March 12, 2009 and mail to Steve Weeks, P.O. Box 302, Noxapater, MS 39346.

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FULL-TIME PASTOR NEEDED AT FBC Morgan City, Louisiana. Prefer Southern Baptist Seminary and pastoral experience. Send resume to FBCMC, 1915 Victor II Blvd, Morgan City, LA, 70380 or email to jerry@morgancityrentals.com.

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CONSERVATIVE SOUTHERN BAPTIST Church seeking youth minister for part-time or full-time position. Send resumes to Riverside Baptist Church c/o the youth search committee, 36890 Hwy 16, Denham Springs, LA 70706. Email rbcbsbc@bellsouth.net.

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Smith: ministering where Jesus is only a curse word

WINNIPEG, Manitoba (Special) — Gary Smith and his 11-year-old son Caleb toiled down the Trans-Canada Highway in their rented Toyota on a winter's day. They were in the middle of a 12-hour, 500-mile road trip from Quebec to Prince Edward Island when reality hit the 41-year-old missionary and he suddenly started to cry.

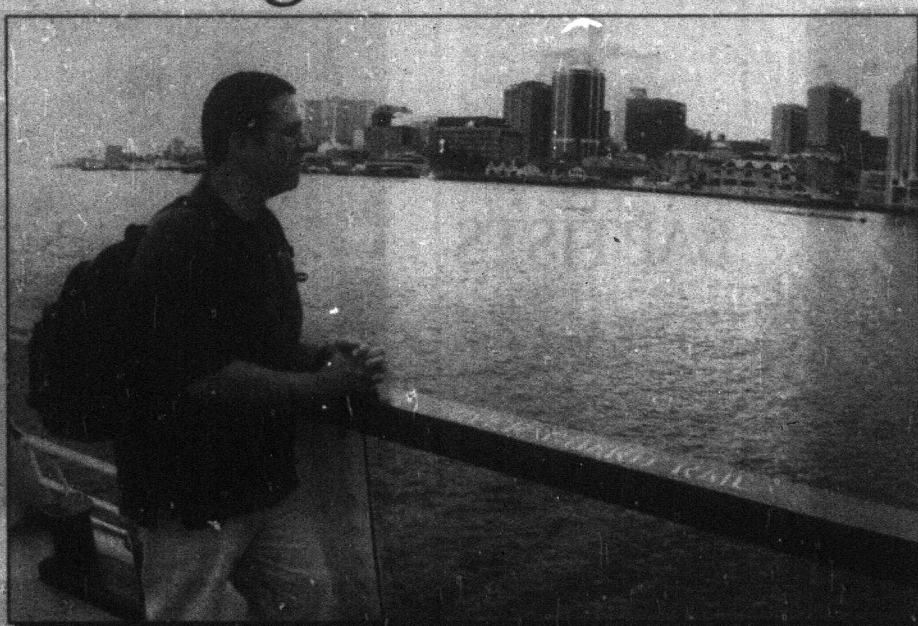
"What's going on, Daddy?" asked an alarmed Caleb, the oldest of Gary and Sue Smith's four children. "What's happening?"

Through his tears, Smith asked his son, "Caleb, do you realize that in all of these towns, cities, and villages we're passing by, there are no Christian churches to tell the people about the Gospel? There are no Sunday school classes for kids. There's nothing like you've known all your life."

As he looks back now Smith thinks that's when Caleb finally got it, realizing why his daddy was gone from home so much. "He and I stopped and prayed together for those towns, cities, and villages," recalls Smith, "and it was a precious time for just the two of us."

It's a fact, Smith said, that some 1,000 communities in Quebec spread across hundreds of miles have no evangelical church at all — not one.

The Smiths are national missionaries for the North American Mission Board and the Canadian National Baptist Convention, responsible for planting churches all across Canada. They are two of the some 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions, and are among the



VAST MISSION FIELD — Gary Smith, the North American Mission Board's 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions Week of Prayer missionary responsible for church planting in eastern Canada and based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, rides a ferry with the skyline of Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the background. (Special photo)

NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 1-8.

This year's theme is Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest. The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$65 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like the Smiths.

Smith, a native Kansan, realizes he's not in Kansas anymore when it comes to the difficult challenge of planting new churches and sharing the Gospel amidst a vastly "lost" Canada.

"In eastern Canada, there's a spiritual void," he says. "If you're under 40 years old and in Quebec, you don't probably know who Jesus Christ is. I've had some people literally tell me, 'Oh, that's a curse word.' That's all they know about Jesus, and this is where

we are trying to evangelize, witness, and plant churches.

"It can be a hard place but it gives us an incredible opportunity," said Smith. "Can you imagine the sweetness of sharing Christ with someone who is hearing for the very first time? They have no concept of Jesus. They're a blank slate."

Smith says only eight percent of all Canadians are connected to an evangelical church, compared to 28 percent in the United States. "Montreal has nearly five million people. Almost all of them are lost. Only half of one percent are evangelical Christians. We've been here eight years now but only scratched the surface."

As an example of the fading spiritual condition in Montreal, Quebec's largest city, 95% of Montreal citizens attended a Catholic church weekly in 1955. Today, it's only five percent. The Catholic Church has not only lost most of its spiritual ground in Montreal, it's almost been kicked out of the culture, according to Smith.

The same holds true for Protestant churches in other Canadian provinces such as New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. Smith said despite local church planting by Southern Baptists, many of the churches in these provinces have either died out or been turned into art museums.

Smith says sharing the Gospel in Canada often calls for new, unique and creative tactics in lieu of traditional "hard-sell" methods. In a country where so many know of Jesus Christ only as a curse word, tangibly reflecting the love and compassion of

Christ proves more successful.

"On an airplane recently, I met a young French woman who was a social worker in Trois Rivieres, Quebec, one of the most unreached cities per capita in all of North America," he said. "Not only was she a social worker, she had a caseload of 50 unwed pregnant teenagers, average age 13."

"I asked her if she had ever heard of Jesus Christ and she gave the typical reply. 'Yes, Jesus is a curse word.' I told her, 'No, He's much more than that. . . He loves moms and babies.'"

Smith got her e-mail address and phone number and weeks later, told the young social worker's story at a Baptist missions conference in Florida.

"The folks in Florida got so fired up that five weeks later, I had these huge boxes delivered to my doorstep in Montreal. We opened them up and it was incredible — baby snowsuits, diapers, wipes, things for the moms, etc."

When Smith drove to Trois Rivieres to personally deliver the baby items to the social worker, she and her colleagues told him, "it's so incredible what you've provided."

"I told them, 'No, Jesus Christ provided these things for you today. This is who He is.' That was these Canadian social workers' introduction to the Gospel," Smith said, adding that reflecting Jesus' compassion in any lost place can make the mission field there much softer to plow and harvest.

Smith's church planting role for NAMB and the Canadian National Baptist Convention is much bigger than himself, to the extent that he partners with fellow missionary Jeff Christopherson in Toronto and oversees volunteer church planting "advocates" stationed in other Canadian provinces.

"Toronto is the most culturally diverse city on the planet," according to Christopherson. "In 2001, over 50% of the Toronto population was born outside Canada. By 2016, there will be more than one million Mandarin-speaking Chinese from mainland China living in the Greater Toronto area — but 95% of them will be unchurched."

"People don't realize it, but there are more Italians in Toronto than any place else in

the world outside of Italy. You go to Brampton, a city of 400,000, and there are 90,000 Sikhs there. There are 50,000 Bengalis in Toronto."

Christopherson said Toronto is also Canada's headquarters for the country's major corporations, media outlets, the Canada Stock Exchange, and the major banks, making the city a combined New York City and Los Angeles. As such, Toronto impacts the rest of Canada.

"Gary and I work well together," said Christopherson. "He's an incredible guy, one of the most catalytic people I've ever met."

Although Smith, who recently shifted his home base from Montreal to Winnipeg, Manitoba, is primarily responsible for Eastern Canada including Montreal, and Christopherson oversees Toronto, the two men say there are no turf battles.

"We see ourselves working together, and there is no 'this is my city' or 'this is your city,'" says Smith. "We don't care whose name is on what; we want to see these two strategic cities reached for Christ."

"In Toronto, we need to see an explosion," he said. "Jeff is right now following up on nearly 50 potential new church planters. We don't have enough people, resources, or staff. It seems impossible to reach Toronto but like the Old Testament says, 'I'll make a way where there seems to be no way.'"

Another Canadian church planter, Jarret Hamilton, who pastors Affinity Church in the Toronto suburb of Oshawa, also sings Smith's praises.

"Gary is, first and foremost, an enormous encourager and supporter," Hamilton said. "Like everything we do, he's the first one to celebrate and the first one to offer encouragement. Gary also has a tremendous amount of wisdom and knowledge that he passes on — but one thing I appreciate is that Gary doesn't force it on you. He waits for you to ask for it and then gives you insight and encouragement."

What does the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering do for church planters in Canada?

"I'm thinking of a guy in New Brunswick," said Smith. "It's a dynamic church plant, supported by the Annie offering. They've led over 200 people to Christ in this one church plant. And that's because of the Annie offering that supports that church plant."

"I believe a church planting movement can arise out of Canada that would turn the tide for North America."

Editor's note: For more information on this year's Week of Prayer missionaries and the ministries of the North American Mission Board, visit www.anniearmstrong.com.

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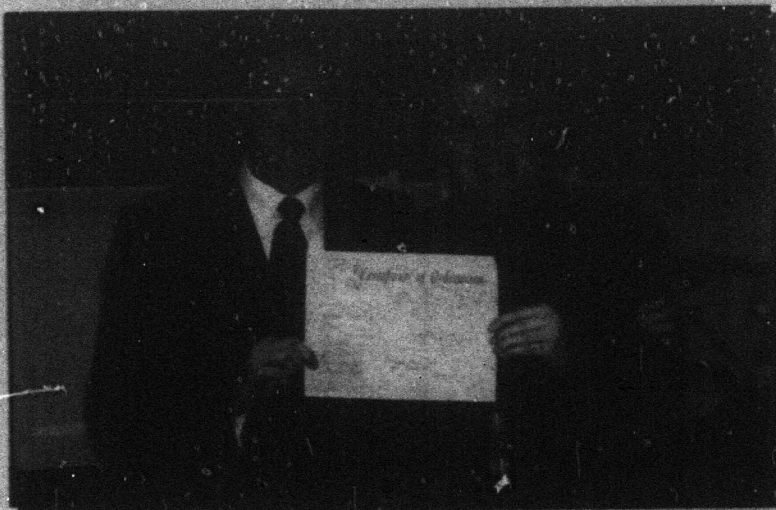
Other 2009 tours

May 1-9	Mackinac Island & Circle Lake Michigan tour
June 8-20	Rocky Mountains
July 1-Aug 1	Alaska & W Canada with Calgary Stampede
Aug 17-28	Grand Canyon, Arizona
Oct 7-17	Fall in historical New England
Nov 16-21	Smoky Mountain Christmas
Dec 4-10	Texas Christmas

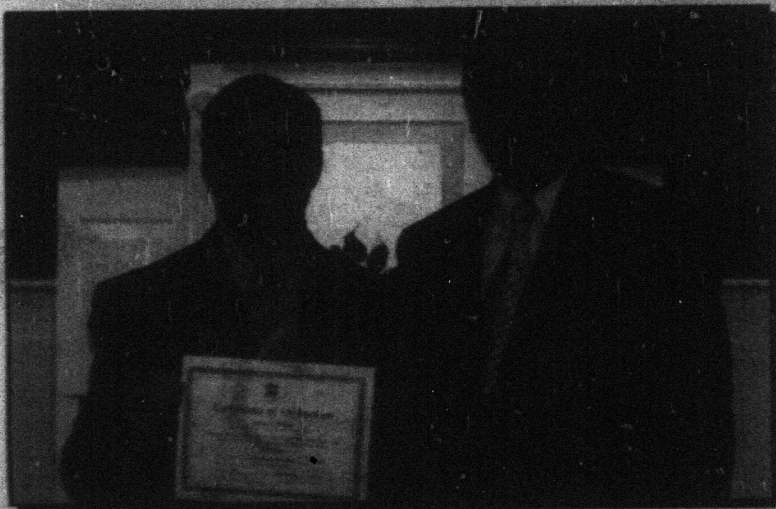
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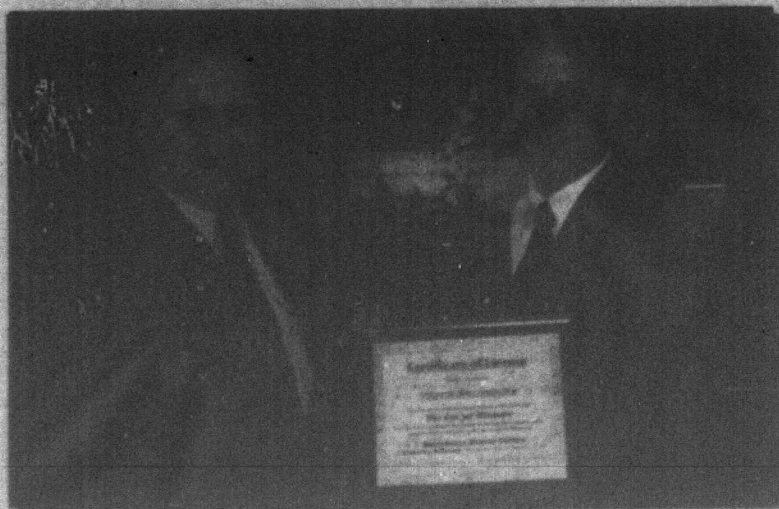
1. Stewart and Johnson



2. Mayo and Curtis



3. River Bend Church mission team



4. Avery and Higginbotham



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

1. **Harmony Church, Crystal Springs**, ordained Rickey Johnson to the gospel ministry Feb. 22. Shown are pastor Clark Stewart and Johnson.

2. **New Prospect Church, Olive Branch**, recently ordained Jim Mayo as deacon. Shown are Mayo and pastor Bob Curtis.

3. **River Bend Church, Aberdeen**, sent a mission team to Mexico Jan. 31 - Feb. 7. Shown are Caroline Carter, Troy Carter, Germaine Williams, Billy Williams, Rivers Smith, Claudette Taylor, Steve Taylor, Roy McHenry, Janice McMinn, Donald McMinn, Debbie Gibbs, and Jeanie Bowen.

4. **Brooksville Church, Brooksville**, licensed Tyler Higginbotham to the ministry. Shown are pastor Danny Avery and Higginbotham.

5. **Hamilton Church, Monroe Association**, recently held a note-burning ceremony after paying off the debt on their new sanctuary. Shown are Wayne Thompson, Mike Jaudon, Roger Pace, and pastor Robert Moore.

6. **Hurricane Creek Church, Sandy Hook**, licensed Chris Bracey to the gospel ministry Feb. 15. Shown are pastor Curtis Roland and Bracey.

7. **Cody Toms, Boy Scouts of America Troop 3** member, was presented a Bible in recognition of his Eagle Scout by Mike Perkerson Feb. 1. Troop 3 was chartered in 1928 at First Church, Columbus, which has sponsored the troop continuously for 81 years. Shown are Bill Brooks, Mike Perkerson, and Toms.

8. **Brandon Turner** was ordained as a deacon at Ingalls Avenue Church, Pascagoula, Oct. 26. His father John is pastor of the church. Shown are Brandon Turner and John Turner.

9. **First Church, Gulfport**, will host the Gulf Coast Choir Festival Mar. 5, 7 p.m., in their new worship center. Churches from across the Gulf Coast region will perform. Free.



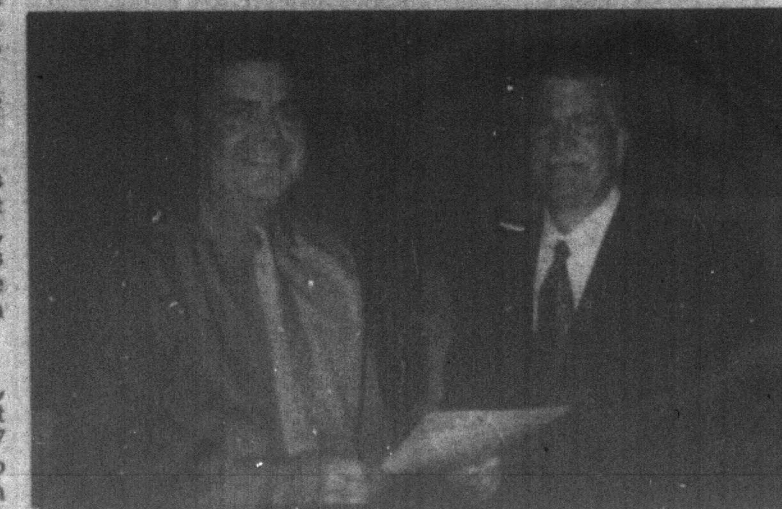
5. Hamilton Church note-burning



6. Roland and Bracey

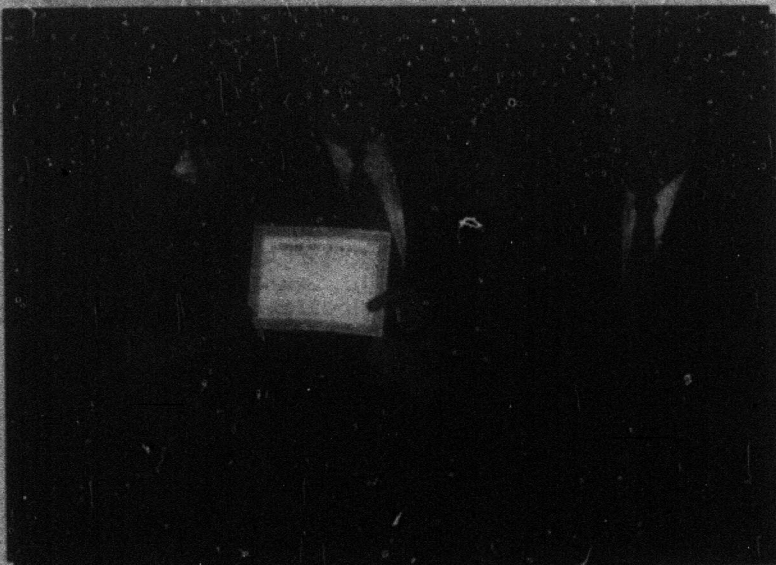


7. Brooks, Perkerson, and Toms



8. Turner ordination

JUST FOR THE RECORD



10. Pouncey licensing



11. Skene Church

10. **Mt. Vernon Church, Newton Association**, recently licensed Bill Boulton to the gospel ministry. Shown are Helen Boulton, Boulton, and pastor Steve Pouncey.

11. **Skene Church, Skene**, donated their last collection of pennies for the Memorial to the Missing, having collected several hundred pounds of pennies. Shown are youth and children with pastor Wayne Sistrunk.

12. **Dorsey Church, Mooreville**, held a baby dedication service Feb. 1. Shown are Emma Grace Blanchard, daughter of Clint Blanchard and Kayla Ray; Charlie Jayden York, daughter of Ed and Britni York; and John Robert Weiske, son of Ben and Rachel Weiske.

13. **First Church, Ripley**, recently ordained Bradley Bullock as deacon. Shown are Bullock, his family, and pastor Rex Yancey.

14. **Salem Church, Toomsaba**, will celebrate and dedicate its new fellowship center Mar. 8. Lunch, 12:30 p.m.; dedication service, 2 p.m.; Charles Davis, speaker.

15. **Goss Church** is hosting a taste fair Mar. 14, 5-7 p.m. Tickets, \$8, with proceeds going toward the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.



12. Dorsey Church baby dedication



13. Bullock ordination

NOTICE

The Church Facilities and Furnishings Workshop, scheduled for March 17 at Parkway Church, Clinton, has been postponed to March 16, 2010.

For more information, contact Keith Gordon at (601) 292-3307 or toll free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 307. E-mail: kgordon@mbcb.org

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STAFF CHANGES

1. **Juniper Grove Church, Poplarville**, has called Breaux Tageant as pastor. He is shown with his wife, Sandy.



1. The Tageants

The Baptist Record
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

COLLEGE NEWS

1. **William Carey University** will begin offering a master of biomedical science degree in the fall of 2009. Students and parents interested in a career in the health and medical fields can attend an information meeting about WCU's new master of biomedical science degree on March 23 at 6 p.m. in the Kresge Room on the Hattiesburg campus. Requirements for admission and other information will be available at the meeting. For more information call (601) 318-6610 or 800-962-5991, ext. 610.

2. **William Carey University** will present the exhibit *Flourishing Blooms: Paintings by Tommie Rodgers*, February 26 through April 2 in the Lucile Parker Gallery on the Hattiesburg campus. The opening reception is Thursday, March 5 from 6 until 7 p.m. The public is invited to the opening reception. The gallery is Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and by special appointment by calling (601) 318-6528.

3. Christian teacher, author and minister Shane Stanford will speak at **William Carey University's** Christian Leadership Lecture March 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus.

4. **Mississippi College's** Table Tennis Team will return to the national championships in Minnesota after its solid victory in the Feb. 21 Dixie Division tournament. Led by Captain Ken Qiu of China, MC's team combined killer spins with aggressive slams to defeat Southern Mississippi, Mississippi State, the University of Alabama, and University of Alabama-Huntsville. MC's nationally ranked team faced tenacious opponents all day, but managed to finish up top at the Baptist Healthplex on the Clinton campus. MC's team consists of five players from China, two from Mississippi, and one each from Taiwan and Venezuela.

Miami poses special challenge for Baptist missionary

MIAMI, Fla. (Special) — There's an unglitzy side to Miami you'll never see depicted on CSI Miami. There's the flaunted wealth, the big beachfront homes, the flashy cars, the fast boats, and glamorous life-in-the-fast-lane for the celebrities and superstar athletes who live here — but Miami is a city of paradoxical extremes.

While the city has been ranked the third-richest in the United States, it also has more citizens below the federal poverty line than any other U.S. city except Detroit and El Paso. Miami is the seventh largest metro area in the U.S., with over 5.4 million people.

Southern Baptist missionary Al Fernandez, 50, loves Miami like only a man born and raised there could. As a native and son of Cuban immigrants, he actually witnessed the start of the huge influx of Cubans, Latinos, and other Hispanics into Miami in the early 1960s.

Al's parents were already planting churches in the Miami area when Cubans began flooding into Miami to escape the Marxist dictatorship of Fidel Castro. Al accepted Christ when he was only six, and felt called to the ministry at 15.

"(It) took me 15 more years to let go and to allow God to work in my life," he says. "I've been here all my life, grew up Southern Baptist, and feel this is the place God has called me. I feel uniquely gifted to work here."

Al, who earned a B.A. degree at Florida International University in Miami and an M.A. at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, is married to Noemi, also a Cuban by birth. They have two sons and a daughter.

Fernandez, director of the Florida Baptist Convention's Urban Impact Ministries in Miami, is one of some 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their terri-

tories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions. He is among the North American

associations in South Florida: Palm Lake Association in the West Palm Beach area; Gulf Stream Association just north of

who use Spanish as their first language make up 67% of the population. One might think that would make Fernandez's

sense of unity and cooperation within our churches and associations," he said, "and we need each other because it doesn't matter how large a church is in Miami, no one church can reach all the people in this environment. We have to work together."

Another reason for Miami-area churches to come together, especially in today's gloomy economic recession, is money and resources, according to Fernandez.

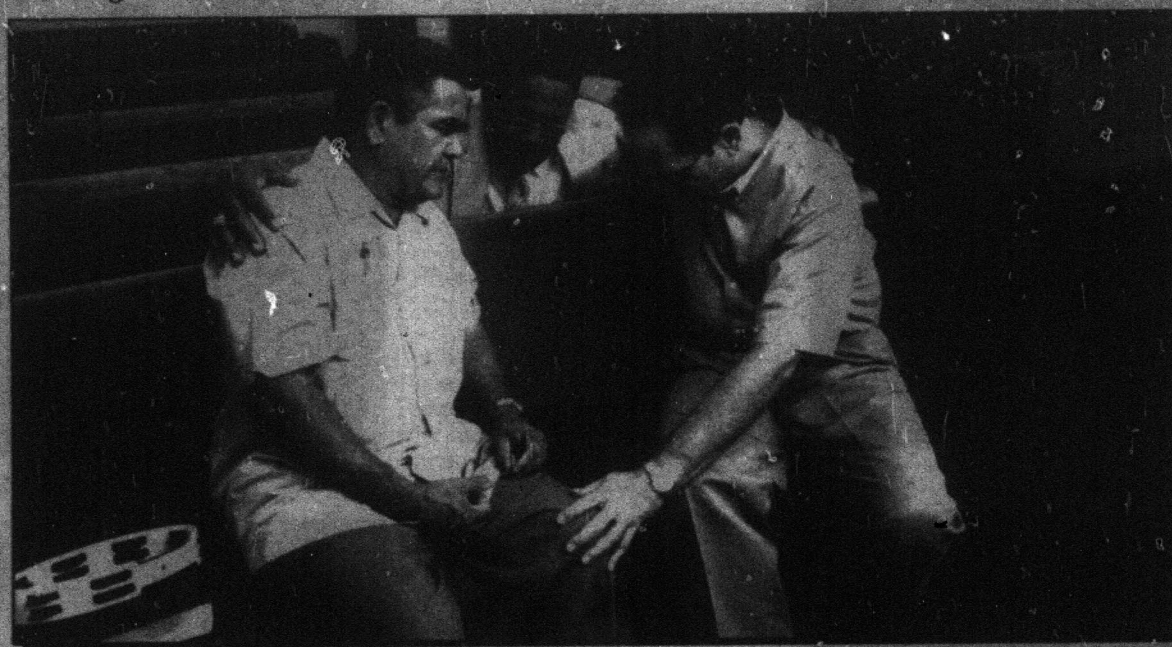
"South Florida is a very expensive place to live, and many of our pastors and churches are struggling because it's not a cheap place to live and minister. Miami is a city of 'haves' and 'have-nots.' You see the entertainers and the athletes who live here, yet you've got average people who have to work hard every day in their jobs just to survive. These dynamics make it hard to minister here," he said.

Gary Johnson, executive director of the Miami Association, says Miami's high property costs also translate into the small number of Southern Baptist churches who own their own facilities in the area.

"Only one-third of our churches own their own property because property is so expensive in Miami," Johnson said.

"The reality of these ministries is that they cost money, and one size ministry does not fit all," Fernandez said. "We need a lot of resources to do the work of the Lord in South Florida."

For more information on this year's Week of Prayer missionaries and the ministries of the North American Mission Board, visit www.anniemissionboard.com.



FIRST THINGS FIRST — Church planting missionary Al Fernandez (right) prays with fellow Miami-area Southern Baptist pastors Obed Matos (left) and Tommy Milton at Glendale Church in Miami. (Special photo)

Mission Board missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 1-8.

This year's theme is Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest. The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$65 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like Fernandez.

"Urban Impact is a ministry that was established three years ago," Fernandez says. "We felt there was a need to establish a stronger Southern Baptist presence in South Florida. We felt we really needed to have an impact on our churches, pastors and associations in a complex urban setting like Miami. We want to impact Miami with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

His work depends on a close partnership among three key

Miami; and Miami Association in metro Miami. Fernandez has three distinct areas of responsibility: urban church planting, urban leadership development and urban evangelism.

Fernandez, who is bilingual, believes God has uniquely equipped him to minister in South Florida. "I grew up in Spanish-speaking churches so I understand the context. I've also pastored in English-speaking churches. It's like God has allowed me to be a bridge across the different cultures and nationalities in Miami."

"Like the Apostle Paul said, I believe I am all things to all people."

Miami has the largest Spanish-speaking population in the Western Hemisphere outside Latin America. Miamians

job easier, but language doesn't tell the whole story.

"The No. 1 challenge is Miami's diversity and multiculturalism," he said, stressing that not all Hispanics are alike because they come to Miami from different nations — Cuba, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, etc. "Hispanics from different countries may all speak Spanish but still have different customs, traditions and cultures."

He said the three Baptist Associations include 540 churches, three hundred in the Miami association alone. "We need a

NOBTS offers bivo music minister course

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — March 9 begins the eighth of eight courses at six locations in Mississippi sponsored by New Orleans Seminary and Providence Learning Center at the seminary.

Class Voice will meet once a week for two hours for eight consecutive weeks at the following locations and times:

- Broadmoor Church, Madison, beginning March 23 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Jimmy McCaleb, teacher (601) 924-1233.

- First Church, Booneville, March 24 (7-9 p.m.). LuAnne Ford, teacher (662) 728-6272.

- Northcrest Church, Meridian, beginning March 9 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Buddy McElroy, teacher (601) 938-8668.

- First Church, Greenwood, beginning March 24 (6:30-8:30 p.m.). Barry Bouchillon, teacher (662) 897-3075.

- Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, beginning March 16 (7-9 p.m.). Mark Hamilton, teacher (601) 894-5848.

- Gulf Coast Association office, Gulfport, beginning March 24 (7-9 p.m.). Louis White, teacher (228) 896-3796.

The eight courses are Song Leading; Worship Planning; Reading Music: Rhythm/Pitch; Reading Music: Harmony/Melody; Hymnology; Music Administration/Staff Relations; Survey of Church Music Resources; and Class Voice.

The courses are designed to provide basic training for bivocational music directors and other music leaders in churches.

The eight courses meet two hours per week. Each course is eight weeks in length. The cycle of courses is scheduled

over a two-year period. Each course is independent and has no prerequisite.

Each student who completes the eight courses earns a certificate from the Providence Learning Center of New Orleans Seminary.

There is a one-time enrollment fee of \$25.00. The cost of each course is \$125.00. A \$60.00 scholarship is available for all first-time students. Students already enrolled are not eligible. The grant is limited to one person per church.

For more information, contact the teachers listed above or Jimmy McCaleb, MBCB Church Music Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3273 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 273. E-mail: jmcaleb@mbcb.org. Web site: www.mbcb.org.

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Missionaries seeking to reach Koreans in California

FULLERTON, Ca. (Special) — Just as Hannah lovingly presented her baby son, the prophet Samuel, to God, Bok Soon Kim, the Korean mother of Song Sik Kim, dedicated young Song to serve the Lord when he was but an infant.

Fifty-three years later, Bok Soon has gone on to be with her Lord, but Song's still serving God. "When I was in high school, my mother finally told me she had dedicated me to the Lord," said Kim, now a church planting missionary ministering to Koreans throughout California based in Fullerton.

Once he learned of his mom's giant act of faith Kim says he was burdened constantly until 1980, when at 25 years old, he finally answered God's call to preach. "I was 100% sure that God called me."

Today, California has a total population of almost 37 million people, and about a million of these are of Korean descent. Of this million, Kim estimates that some 800,000 are non-believers.

Jointly supported by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) and the California Southern Baptist Convention, Song Kim and wife Fanny, also a native of South Korea, have worked the last dozen years as church planting missionaries in The Golden State.

Song and Fanny Kim are only two of more than 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions. The couple is among the NAMB missionar-

ies featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 1-8.

This year's theme is Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest. The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$65 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like the Kims.

A native of Pusan, South Korea, Song first came to the United States in 1973. He is a graduate of California Baptist College and holds M. Div. and D. Min. degrees from Golden Gate and Fuller Theological Seminaries, respectively.

Song and Fanny — born in Seoul and named for prolific hymn-writer Fanny Crosby — have two daughters, Julie, 26, and Janet, 23.

Living in Fullerton, about 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles, but with an office in Fresno, Kim is away from home 7-10 nights each month preaching, teaching, recruiting, and training Korean pastors and seminary students as volunteer church planters.

"When I'm traveling up and down the state of California, I usually leave on Friday or Saturday and return home on Monday or Tuesday," says Kim. He is responsible for overall Korean church planting in California.

Currently, there are only 200 Korean Southern Baptist churches in California to reach and disciple the state's one million Koreans.

What does Kim, who by himself can't possibly plant and disciple all the Korean churches needed in California, look for when he goes to Golden Gate

Seminary or area churches, searching for and recruiting young Korean church planters?

"If they are to be successful church planters, they have to have a clear calling from God," he said. "Calling is No. 1 because if they have a clear calling from God, I believe God will provide everything for them. They also must have a clear vision — their own personal vision, not someone else's — to start with. They also have to understand the Korean culture."

Kim said the challenge for these young Korean church planters is that they lack experience, and that church planting will be voluntary, second to their full-time role as local pastors or seminary students. The volunteer church planters do not receive salaries.

"We need more churches, more church leaders and more pastors," he says.

With its 2,500 members, the largest of the 200 Korean churches in California is New Vision Church in Milpitas, Calif., about 50 miles southeast of San Francisco. New Vision is one of the few Korean churches in California that owns its own building, according to Kim.

"It's hard to find worship places," he said, explaining that Korean Baptists are competing for space with other ethnic-group churches such as Hispanics. "We have to partner with Anglo, Hispanic, or other churches and borrow their building for our services. Real estate is so expensive in California. If we have to rent an office building or warehouse, it



ON MISSION — Husband-wife missionary team Fanny and Song Kim, both natives of South Korea, know, teach and live the Korean culture as they help plant Korean SBC churches in California. Here, they do their grocery shopping at a Korean market near their home in Fullerton, Ca. (Special photo)

may cost \$2,000-3,000 each month, just for rent."

Kim says that reaching California's Koreans requires a two-prong strategy — one for ministering to first-generation Koreans and another strategy for reaching younger, second-generation Koreans.

"Probably, 80% of the Korean population here is first-generation. They were emigrants from Korea and their mother tongue is Korean. Their English is limited, so that's why we need English-as-Second Language classes for most of them."

What does the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering mean to the Kims and their ministry? "Without the Annie Armstrong offering, I can't do the work," said Song Kim. "The money that comes from Annie and the Cooperative Program is helping the Korean church planters and my ministry. As a team, we're working together to expand the Kingdom of God."

For more information on this year's Week of Prayer missionaries and the ministries of the North American Mission Board, visit www.anniearmstrong.org.

Native Alabamian relishes new home on Pittsburgh mission field

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (Special) — In North American Mission Board missionary Lamar Duke's native Alabama, there's one Southern Baptist church for every 1,452 people.

In the Pittsburgh area, where Duke served the last six years as director of missions for the Baptist Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania, there's only one SBC church for every 61,225 people.

Some three million people live in the association's nine-county area, so broad that it takes over three hours to drive it north to south and more than two hours east to west.

"We believe that approximately two million of those people are unchurched," says Duke, adding that this flies in the face of one report calling Pittsburgh the third most religious city in America.

"We Baptists, of course, know that what some call 'religious' may not always be Christian. There's a lot of religion here, but there's not much relationship with Jesus," he said. Only five percent of the metro Pittsburgh population claims to be evangelical Christians.

Duke is one of more than 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions. He is among the NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer, March 1-8.

This year's theme is Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest. The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$65 million, 100% of which benefits missionaries like Duke.

With his size, shaved head, and southern drawl, Duke is seldom confused as a native Pittsburgher. Since coming as a long-time pastor in Georgia to Pittsburgh in 2002, Duke had to learn about the culture and diversity of Pittsburgh.

Although ranked as the 22nd largest metro area in the United States, Pittsburgh also has a small-town feel, comprised of some 1,600 boroughs each with its own ethnic and religious traits. Some 140 identifiable ethnic groups call Pittsburgh home.

Before thousands last summer at the 2008 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Indianapolis, Duke became emotional on stage with NAMB president Geoff Hammond when talking about Pittsburgh's sad spiritual state.

"The fact that 95% of the local population has no recognizable, identifiable relationship with Jesus Christ is what drives me. It gets me out of the bed in the morning and keeps me up at night."

"Our vision here at our association is that we cannot rest until there is a vital, evangelizing, discipling, reproducing church within driving distance of all the three million people in the nine counties of southwestern

Pennsylvania, and a church where they can worship in their heart language."

Before coming to Pittsburgh six years ago, Duke was founding pastor of South Effingham Community Church in Guyton, Ga., serving there from 1996-2002. Before that he had pastorates in Louisiana, New Jersey, and Alabama.

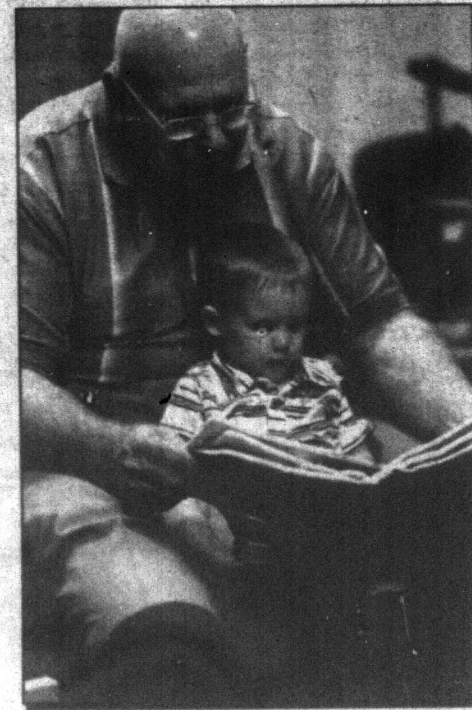
He's been married to wife Dolly, also an Alabama native, for 38 years. They have two grown children — Cheri D. Witmer and Thomas L. Duke, pastor of Iron City Church, also a church plant in Pittsburgh.

"We're doing everything we can to salt and seed the area with the Gospel," said Duke. "We believe church planting is the way to do that because the more salvation stations we can create, the more opportunity those people have to hear the Gospel."

Duke who as the local director of missions considers himself a wholesaler and not a retailer in the church planting business, still believes as an associational leader, "you have to have smoke on your clothes from being in a fire if you're gonna tell other people how to fight the fire."

Editor's Note: Duke recently accepted a new missionary position as state director of missions for the Baptist Convention of New York.

For more information on this year's Week of Prayer missionaries and the ministries of the North American Mission Board, visit www.anniearmstrong.com.



YOUNG STUDENT — North American Mission Board missionary Lamar Duke, who has two grown children of his own, reads Bible stories to a young toddler in his care in Pittsburgh. (Special photo)

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Bory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27

Clinton, MS 39060-0027

(601) 922-2242

www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor with love and respect those who are and have been special to our special friends.

FEBRUARY 1 - 15, 2009

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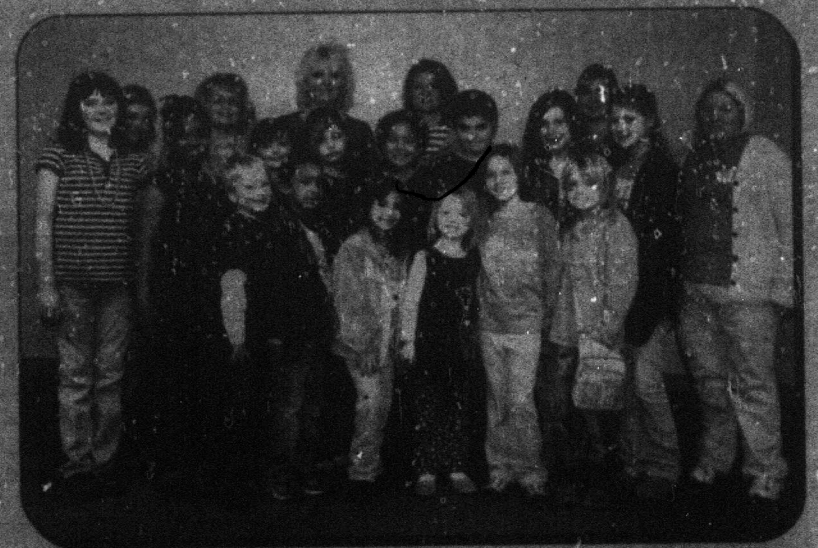
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Ray Legge & siblings
Willie D. Long
Ms. Marion G. Miller
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Bureau
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Keeton Jr.
Mr. David McCool
East Louisville BC
Mr. Howard McDonald
Mrs. Kitty H. Brewer
Ernestine McLendon
Mrs. Mamie Ross
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Mr. Dan Miles
Carlos, Phyllis, Justin &
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Mr. E. L. Bennett Jr.
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Sr.
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Mr. Harold Moss
Mr. & Mrs. Guy
Branscome, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. John T.
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Ida Mae Dean Nabors
Lucille Dean Family
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Jim, Cindy & Ryan
McCurdy
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The children of Immanuel Baptist Church, Vicksburg under the leadership of Mrs. Ashley Coomes toured The Baptist Children's Village recently. The children collected paper products and cleaning supplies and delivered those to The BCV.

BCV Replaces Campbell's Labels for Education Project

The Baptist Children's Village will no longer be seeking Campbell's Labels as a part of the Labels for Education Program. We will instead turn our attention to a recycle program that allows individuals, groups or companies to collect used ink cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phones and accessories, i-pods, laptops, and game systems, and redeem them for cash for their favorite charity—that's us.

Many of you use ink cartridges in your printers at home or at your business and just throw them away. This program provides a way to protect the environment and turn those discards into cash for The Baptist Children's Village. We use two companies—Recycle 4 Charity and Recycle First. Both of them will provide labels that you can attach to a box of recyclables. Either UPS or FedEx can pick up the boxes and it does not cost you or us anything. The labels (that we can provide for you) tell the company to designate the recycle dollars to The BCV. If you want more information about these companies you can explore their web sites at www.recycle4charity.com or www.recyclefirst.com. Please contact me for more information about how to organize a recycle project for your group and to request your mailing your labels.

We have been very encouraged by the response of people to the Labels for Education program. Thank you for the time you have invested to help make this a productive project on our behalf. Through this program The BCV has been able to fill several needs within the ministry. As we make the choice to suspend this partnership, we will trust the Lord, and His people, to continue to provide for our needs in other ways. We are hopeful that this new recycling project will be just as successful. We covet your prayers for this ministry, and our attempts to be good stewards of all our resources, and to be a ministry that honors our Lord in the work we do.

We will continue receiving Campbell's Labels through the end of March.

Lucille Smith
Mrs. Marie Shanks Wall
Thelma Spears
Jo & Jimmie Smithy
Melvin Spell
Oregon Memorial BC
Jim D. Sp...
Mrs. Andis Spiers
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Spiers,
Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Spiers
Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Spiers
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Seal
Mr. & Mrs. William
Rowley
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy
Fortinberry
Mrs. Nell Armstrong
Mrs. Julie Steed
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Kirk
Mr. Tommy Stewart
Dr. & Mrs. James H.
Brewer
Mrs. Eileen B. Stokes
Galilee BC - Gloster
Ms. Fay B. Kaigler
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Mary Jo Carson & Family
Dick & Sue Robertson &
Family
June Tackett
Mrs. Kitty Brewer
Tim Thomas
Elon BC-Macon

Fortinberry
Mrs. Nell Armstrong
Victoria Spiers
Mrs. Andis Spiers
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Spiers,
Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Spiers
Mr. & Mrs. Rogers Spiers
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Seal
Mr. & Mrs. William
Rowley
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy
Fortinberry
Mrs. Nell Armstrong
Mrs. Julie Steed
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby L. Kirk
Mr. Tommy Stewart
Dr. & Mrs. James H.
Brewer
Mrs. Eileen B. Stokes
Galilee BC - Gloster
Ms. Fay B. Kaigler
Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Anders
Mary Jo Carson & Family
Dick & Sue Robertson &
Family
June Tackett
Mrs. Kitty Brewer
Tim Thomas
Elon BC-Macon

Jean Torrance
Jo & Jimmie Smithy
Leon Waldon
Bill & Sharon Newsom
Mr. James Dorris "J.D." Webb,
Jr.
Tad & Laura Campbell
Dixie Hills Hunting Club
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Assn
Mrs. Mary S. Hatcher &
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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Prepare

Nehemiah 2:1-8, 11-18



Story

By Arthur Story

Last week we looked at Nehemiah 1 and our need to "Be Aware" so that we will recognize opportunities to join God in His work. This week we focus our attention on Nehemiah 2 and three choices we can make to "Prepare" to serve God.

Invest Your Heart (Neh. 2:1-3)

The first choice that we need to make to be prepared to serve God is the choice to invest our hearts. Nehemiah made this choice! Nehemiah spent four months waiting to take action. During these months, he spent much time talking with God about the situation in Jerusalem. By waiting with God, Nehemiah was able to invest his whole heart in this situation and spiritually prepare to serve God. What some might be tempted to label as wasting time,

Nehemiah recognized as an essential part of preparing to serve.

Nehemiah's waiting with God is similar to laying the foundation of a new house. Laying the foundation for a house takes time. There is dirt work to be done, surveying, framing for the slab, etc. All of this requires a significant amount of time. The casual passerby might be tempted to view the work on the site as slow, inefficient, or the result of lazy workmen. The truth is this is essential work that requires diligence and careful preparation. The integrity of the entire structure being built depends on the stability of the foundation. Once the foundation is laid the rest of the house seems to shoot up. At this point, that same casual passerby now wonders how the builders are able to build the house so quickly.

as the solid foundation of a house leads to the rest of the structure going up quickly, Nehemiah's time with God built a strong spiritual foundation that led to Jerusalem's wall going up quickly.

Set Clear Goals (Neh. 2:4-8)

The second choice we need to make to be prepared to serve God is the choice to set clear goals. Nehemiah began preparing by investing his heart in the opportunity to serve God in Jerusalem. He then made the choice to set clear goals regarding his service of God in Jerusalem! Nehemiah's initial willingness to spend much needed time with God afforded him a clear understanding of the need in Jerusalem which enabled him to establish a

well thought out plan for his service of God.

Like the aforementioned house builder, Nehemiah now not only had a strong foundation upon which to build but he also had the blue prints for the remainder of the house. He knew the plan, the resources that would be required, and the time frame for the work. Simply stated, he had a clear set of goals to follow that would lead to the desired outcome. This clarity gave Nehemiah the ability to communicate God's plan and his needs to others. As a result, Nehemiah's lucid account to King Artaxerxes of his plan, needs, and timing resulted in the king's supplying of resources.

The combination of Nehemiah's solid foundation of investing his heart with God, along with clear goals for the plan, laid the way for the need in Jerusalem to begin being met quickly.

Enlist Support (Neh. 2:11-18)

The third choice we need to make to be prepared to serve God is the choice to enlist support. Nehemiah began his preparation by investing his

heart in the opportunity to serve God in Jerusalem. Next, he set clear goals to meet the need. Lastly, he prepared to serve God by enlisting the support of others.

Over the years, I've been blessed to get to know a number of gifted people that work in the construction of new homes. Interestingly, none of them work alone. They all enlist a team of people to work with them to complete the job.

Whether you are enlisting people to assist in the construction of a new home, an ancient city wall, or the development of a new ministry, communication is essential. Nehemiah was able to enlist the support of the people by clearly communicating the present disgraceful situation, God's plan to remedy it, and His provision.

So, are you like Nehemiah? Are you prepared? Prepare to serve God by following Nehemiah's example. Invest your heart in the opportunity He provides, set clear goals, and enlist support.

Story is Minister of Education, First Church, Louisville.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Honor the Lord

Isaiah 6:1-13

By Beth S. Bowman

A chorus made popular by the Christian music group Sonicflood has these words, "Holiness, Holiness is what I long for. Holiness is what I need. Holiness is what you want from me. So take my heart and form it, Take my mind and transform it, Take my will and form it, To Yours, to Yours oh, Lord." I wonder how many of us have a true understanding what God's Holiness really is. Isaiah had the opportunity to understand Holiness in a personal way as he encountered God in today's lesson.

1. The Lord is Holy (Isaiah 6:1-4)

King Uzziah had recently died. He had reigned in Israel as King for 52 years. Uzziah began his reign as a sixteen year old and followed God's com-

mands in the beginning of his reign. Years later, he became selfish and even tried to burn incense in the altar, a job reserved for the priests. God removed his blessing and permanently struck King Uzziah with leprosy. In the same year that Uzziah died, Isaiah had a vision of God's holiness. Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a high throne and Seraphim were standing above Him. Seraph literally means "burning ones" in the Hebrew (Satrap, 'to burn'). These special heavenly beings were giving honor to God.

2. People are sinful (Isaiah 6:5)

It was at that point Isaiah realized that he stood before a Holy, sacred, divine, and hallowed Creator. His immediate reaction is one of repentance and sorrow. It is interesting to see that verse five indicates that Isaiah con-



Bowman

fessed his sins audibly. Every time we are ushered into the presence of God, our immediate response should be the same. Our churches today do not practice what the New Testament church did in James 5:16, (NASB), "Confess therefore your sins one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed". We do not deserve the goodness, faithfulness, and patience of God. We are sinners in need of a Savior and sometimes we need to make those confessions of sin out loud to each other with trusted Christian brothers and sisters.

er, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed". We do not deserve the goodness, faithfulness, and patience of God. We are sinners in need of a Savior and sometimes we need to make those confessions of sin out loud to each other with trusted Christian brothers and sisters.

3. Atoned People serve the Lord (Isaiah 6:6-8)

Atoned means we are reconciled with God. As Isaiah concluded his confession, one of the seraphim flew to him and had in his hands tongs, holding a glowing coal, which he had taken from the altar. Touching Isaiah's mouth with the coal, the Seraphim stated that his wickedness was removed and

that his sin was atoned for. God's forgiveness is so powerful that the angels could not touch the coal that representing atonement but it was safely touched to Isaiah's lips without harming him. God's ultimate joy and desire is for his people to be reconciled to Him. The angels and seraphim were created to serve us at God's pleasure. The ultimate response after realizing the enormity of what God has done through His Son is the same response that Isaiah had after his cleansing, "Here I am, Send me." (verse 8)

4. Service can be demanding (Isaiah 6:9-13)

The awkward verses in the next passage summoned Isaiah to a difficult assignment. God already knew the outcome of the people's senses. That they would be lacking in understanding and repentance. These verses have a compound effect of showing us what rebellion looks like and illuminating the natural outcome of disobedience. Our service to God is about our immediate obedience to God's instructions and not about the

outcome. Serving God is demanding and as a pastor once put it, it's "brutiful"—both brutal and beautiful at the same time. 2 Peter 3:9 (HCSB) states, "The Lord does not delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance." It is His will and by His power that all can come to repentance and it is our task as repentant, grateful Christ-followers to be ready to serve in whatever the situation.

I like easy tasks, don't you? It's fun when our service for God involves things that we enjoy such as serving a favorite friend at church, giving from some extra unexpected money, or assisting at church in a "small, helper role". But it is the harder, more sacrificial jobs that we are called to more often than not. In the presence of God's holiness, how can we do less than give the best of our time, the best of our resources and the best of our lives?

Bowman is Minister of Connection, First Church, Brandon.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

THE BAPTIST
Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Missionaries covering lots of territory to tell Gospel

LAWRENCE, Kn. (Special)—Daniel Goombi is a full-blooded Native American, a member of the Kiowa-Apache Indian tribe, originally nomads who left Canada to settle in Oklahoma. Daniel is proud of his heritage, culture, and tradition.

"I am a Kiowa-Apache and I do live in a tepee," admits Goombi with a tongue-in-cheek grin. "It's just that it's a two-story brick tepee with central air conditioning, just a couple blocks from Walmart. We wear plain clothes as you can see — no buckskin loin cloths. I eat meals that weren't just running in front of me, and I don't hunt with a bow and arrow. I don't whoop and holler or attack white men, wear feathers, or ride a horse."

Despite his self-deprecating humor, Daniel views his job as a missionary as serious business. As directors of Kansas Reservation Ministries, Daniel, 24, and wife Kimberly, 23, share the Gospel of Christ on four Native American reservations among the Kickapoo, the Sac and Fox, the Iowa, and the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribes throughout Kansas.

The Goombis, based in Lawrence, are Mission Service Corps missionaries for the North American Mission Board and church planters for the Kaw Valley Association.

Daniel and Kimberly are only two of more than 5,500 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® for North American Missions

and the Cooperative Program. The couple is among the NAMB missionaries featured as part of the annual Week of Prayer (WOP), March 1-8.

This year's theme is Live with Urgency: Sowing Together for Harvest. The 2009 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering's goal is \$65 million.

As NAMB Mission Service Corps missionaries, the Goombis must raise their own support among family, friends, and related churches. Although they are self-funded, they also receive additional support such as training, administrative support, and field ministry assistance from the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Daniel is unique among all the NAMB missionaries honored as Week of Prayer missionaries in the past. He is the first-ever Week of Prayer second-generation missionary in NAMB's history. His parents, Ron and Alpha Goombi, who still minister on Native American reservations in Nebraska, were Week of Prayer missionaries in 2003.

Daniel became a Christian at eight years old, during a revival service led by his dad in Omaha, Neb. Although he lived in Omaha most of the time, Daniel remembers that "we pretty much grew up on the reservations. We traveled as much as we could almost every weekend. And we spent almost all summers on the reservations, working with the people."

Ministering on Native American reservations is both



SERVING OTHERS — Missionary Daniel Goombi (center, background) is a full-blooded Native American, a member of the Kiowa-Apache tribe. Here he ministers to young people on one of the four reservations he serves in Kansas. (Special photo)

heartbreaking and difficult, according to Goombi. Every tribe in Kansas is different. Each has its own language, heritage, culture, and beliefs.

"There are a lot of single-parent families with single mothers or even grandparents raising their grandkids. Alcohol, drug abuse, and suicide are big issues. People are secluded from the outside world and when you're on a reservation, you're limited to

what's around you and it's really not much.

"The spiritual climate on the reservations is difficult," Goombi said, "because Native Americans have a misconception of who we believers are. They think they have to give up who they are to follow God, and they believe God is still a white man's God because of the history Native Americans experienced with organized religion."

Goombi reassures those to whom he ministers that "God has blessed us Native Americans with who we are, with our heritage, and would never take that away from us."

Goombi's heartbreak came when he learned early on that on some reservations, 50 years had passed without Native American children having a church or even a Vacation Bible School to attend. Goombi changed that in 2006.

"In Summer 2006, the first time we held Vacation Bible School for the Prairie Band Tribe, a lot of the elders of the tribe told us that it had been 50 years since an outside organization or church had come on the reservation. That's 50 years of children growing, living their lives, and dying without a chance to hear about God," he said.

Goombi says for the most part, there are no reservations with Bible-based churches that meet on a regular basis. They meet now and then, when a visiting pastor comes through.

As a church planter for his association, Daniel wants to plant permanent churches on the reservations he serves. "Our hope as church planters is to have four self-sustaining churches on each of the four reservations — facilities that each tribe could call their own and a place where people would gather and worship the Lord and take advantage of the church's programs."

Parents of two daughters, Elizabeth and Sophia, the Goombis have a real soft spot for Native American children on the reservations.

At the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian Reservation near Mayetta, Kn., Daniel recently was spotted playing dodge ball, football, and basketball with the kids there. Kimberly spent time making salvation bracelets, teaching, and singing with the girls there.

The Goombis subscribe to the phrase in Isaiah 11:6: "...a little child shall lead them."

"The kids on the reservation are really receptive to what we are doing," says Daniel. "It's amazing to see the kids grow, learn church songs and go home and sing them to their parents, who notice how their kids are changing. We offer them an opportunity to learn about God and have fun in a clean environment."

"Working with the kids helps us get to the families and get into the homes. The parents start asking questions and start coming around, and we're able to share the Gospel with them through their kids."

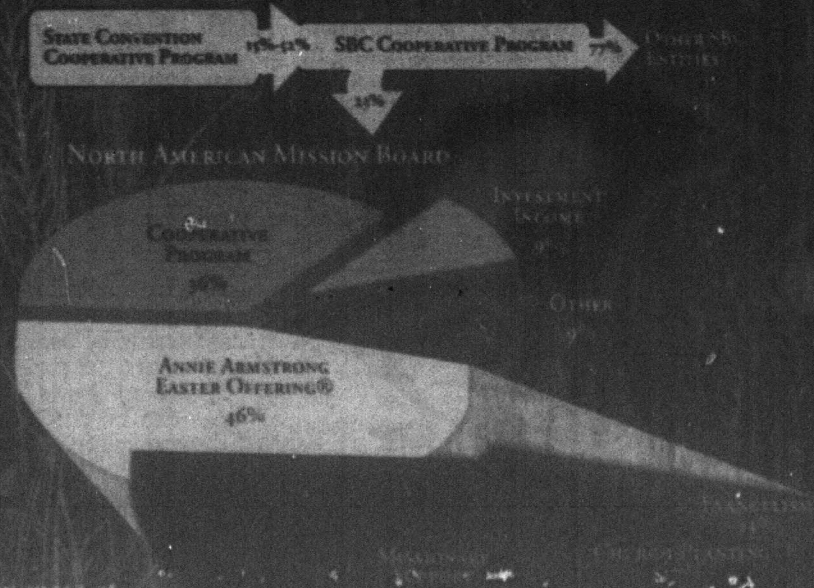
"In addition to Kansas, there are more than 450 tribes recognized by the federal government," said Goombi, "so many of these tribes are going unreached. We want to encourage churches and associations to remember these needs and take action. We need to live with urgency and together sow seeds on these reservations to further God's Kingdom."

For more information on this year's Week of Prayer missionaries and the ministries of the North American Mission Board, visit www.annicarmstrong.com.

FUNDING MISSIONS THROUGH AAEO

ONE HUNDRED PERCENT OF THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING is used to support North American Mission Board (NAMB) missionaries and their ministries. NAMB, in partnership with state Baptist conventions, associations, and churches, has commissioned more than 5,500 missionaries to serve in the United States, Canada, and their territories. The two main focus areas are church planting and evangelism.

NATIONAL GOAL: \$65,000,000



Learn more at
www.annicarmstrong.com